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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/643,622
Attorney Docket No. 351913-992800 (2102397)

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed November 14, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. Claims 1-9 were rejected in the Office Action. By this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections To the Drawing

Figure 1 has been amended to comply with the examiner's request to label it by a legend – Prior Art- Replacement Sheet is attached.

Rejection To the Specification

The specification was objected to as failing to provide for antecedent basis for the acronym "FWH". This has been amended.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,851,014 ("Chang"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Before discussing the rejection it would be useful to discuss applicant's invention as claimed as amended herein. In applicant's invention, as claimed, a memory device interfaces with an integrated circuit and communicates therewith via a communication bus. The device comprises a decoding circuit for receiving communication signals received from the communication bus and generates a plurality of protocols signals in response thereto. In the specification this is shown as a series of logic circuits (shown in Figure 5.) A protocol selection circuit receives the plurality of protocol signals. The memory device further has an array of memory cells. A controller circuit controls the operation of the array of the memory cells. In the specification this is disclosed as a finite state machine (see Figure 4 and 5). The protocol select circuit configures the controller circuit in response to the plurality of protocol signals. In the specification, this is disclosed as a register or an SRAM which is set and is read by the finite state

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machine.

In rejecting Claims 1, 2, 7, and 9, the examiner asserted that Chang teaches a "controller circuit for controlling the operation of the array of memory cells (Figure 9 Items 206 and 208); the protocol circuit for configuring the controller circuit in response to the plurality of protocol signals (Col. 8 lines 41-48)."

Applicant respectfully submits that the citation by the examiner shows the fallacy of this rejection. The structure that the examiner alleges as corresponding to the "controller circuit" of Applicant's claim is the circuit labeled "FWH Protocol Circuit" 206 and the "LPC Protocol Circuit" 208. Yet it is clear from the citation by the examiner that these circuit elements do not control the operation of the memory array 202 of Chang. In fact it is the "host controller" that controls the operation of the memory array 202. The section cited by the examiner, (namely col. 8, lines 41-48) shows abundantly clear that the elements 206 and 208 are not controllers that control the operation of the memory array 202. Rather the "host controller" controls the operation of the memory array 202. Therefore, applicant respectfully submit that either Chang's elements 206 and 208 are not the "controller circuit for controlling the operation of said array of memory cells" or the protocol select circuit of Chang does not configure the controller circuit in response to the plurality of protocol signals. In either event, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is improper. Accordingly, applicant requests reconsideration of this rejection.

For the same reason discussed hereto, applicant respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 7 which has the same limitations as claim 1, under Chang, is improper.

With respect to dependent claims 2 and 9, applicant respectfully submits that since the independent claims 1 and 7 respectively are not anticipated by Chang, the shortcomings of Chang also do not anticipate claims 2 and 9.

Rejection of Claims 3,5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of U.S. Patent 4,789,984 ("Swartz"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

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In rejecting claim 3, which depends on claim 2, the examiner asserted that Chang disclosed each and every element of claim 2. As demonstrated above, this is in error. As for the specific element of claim 3, the examiner asserted that Swartz supplies the "missing element" in that according to the examiner, Swartz discloses a multiplexer having a volatile storage element. Thus, according to the examiner, the combination of Swartz and Chang meet all of the limitations of claim 3. However, as discussed hereinabove, Chang does not disclose all the elements of claim 2 and therefore the combination of Chang and Swartz still would not disclose each and every element of claim 3. Therefore, this rejection is in error.

Similarly, the rejection of claims 5 and 8 is hereby traversed for the same reason as noted hereinabove in that the combination of Swartz and Chang does not disclose each and every element of claims 5 and 8. Thus, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Swartz and further in view of "Micro-Electronics – Digital and Analog Circuits and Systems" by Jacob Millman ("Millman"). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

For the same reasons noted hereinabove, applicant respectfully submits that Chang does not disclose each and every element of claims 1, 2, from which claims 4 and 6 ultimately depend, and therefore, the combination of Chang, Swartz and Millman, even if it were obvious to combine, an assumption not conceded by applicant, would not result in the invention as claimed as set forth in claims 4 and 6. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action by the Examiner is requested.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any

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overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 351913-992800.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED SHEET

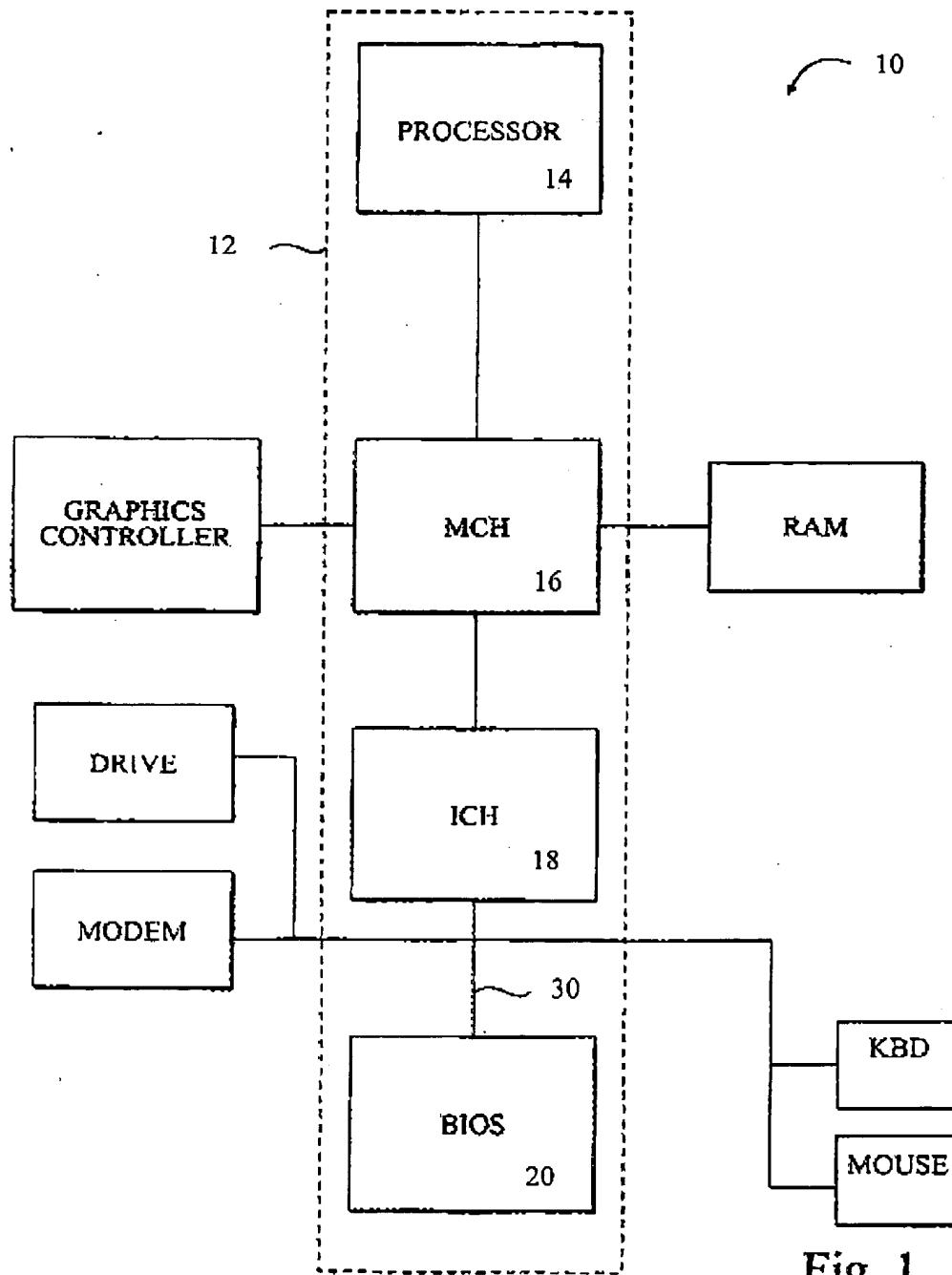


Fig. 1 Prior Art